

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/604,179

Examiner

Sun J. Lin

Applicant(s)

BERNSTEIN ET AL.

Art Unit

2825

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendments & Remarks filed on 05/16/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5-12, 14, 15 and 17-19, renumbered (37 CFR 1.126).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 05/16/2005 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some\*   c) ☐ None   of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

### ***EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT***

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Application has been amended to collect informalities listed below:

Claim 14, line 15, change "9a)" to ~~—(a)—~~.

### ***Reasons for Allowance***

Claims 1 – 3, 5 – 12, 14, 15 and 17 – 19 are allowed over the prior art of record. An examiner's statement of reasons for allowance is given in the following:

Claims 7 – 9 are allowed due to allowable subject matter as explained in the Office Action mailed to applicants on 09/22/2004.

Claims 1 – 3, 5 – 8, 10 – 12, 14, 15 and 17 – 19 are allowed because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the following subject matter as recited in amended independent Claims 1, 10 and 14:

- A method of improving the design of an integrated circuit having a multitude of nets includes timing analysis step, soft error analysis step and design change step; after implementing design change step, iteratively performs timing analysis to determine whether the nets identified in the timing analysis step as not timing critical, and determined in the soft error analysis step as at risk to soft error, are still not timing critical in combination with other limitations as recited in ***Claim 1***;
- A system for improving the design of an integrated circuit having a multitude of nets includes timing analyzer means, soft error analyzer means, design change means and means for iteratively performs timing analysis, after implementing the design change means, to determine whether the nets identified by the timing analyzer means as not timing critical, and determined by the soft error analyzer means as at risk to soft error, are still not timing critical in combination with other limitations as recited in ***Claim 10***;
- A program executable by a machine to perform method steps for improving the design of an integrated circuit having a multitude of nets includes timing analysis

Art Unit: 2825

step, soft error analysis step and design change step; after implementing design change step, iteratively performs timing analysis to determine whether the nets identified in the timing analysis step as not timing critical, and determined in the soft error analysis step as at risk to soft error, are still not timing critical in combination with other limitations as recited in **Claim 14**.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sun J. Lin whose telephone number is (571) 272 – 1899. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 6:00pm.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

Sun J. Lin  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2825  
May 26, 2005



MATTHEW SMITH  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800